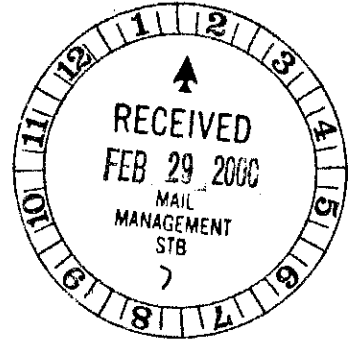




# CANADIAN TIRE

February 23, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



**ENTERED**  
**Office of the Secretary**

**FEB 29 2000**

**Part of**  
**Public Record**

Dear Sir:

Canadian Tire Corporation is Canada's leading hardgoods retailer that is a major user of rail service in Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

The timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the central issue for our company. Our concern is service. Recent mergers have failed on service, not because of timing. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service and cost efficiency.

We commend The Surface Transportation Board for its comprehensive process and protection of public interest. We look forward to its review and evaluation of the CN-BNSF joint railroad transactions and protection of public interest.

Sincerely,

Matt Mucciaccito  
Divisional Vice President Transportation

**CANADIAN TIRE CORPORATION, LIMITED.**

2180 YONGE ST. P.O. BOX 770, STATION K, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M4P 2V8  
TELEPHONE 416 480-3000 FAX 416 544-7715